

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-30 (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The zoom optical system according to claim 1, wherein~~ A zoom optical system comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a first lens group having positive refracting power, a second lens group having negative refracting power, a third lens group having positive refracting power and a fourth lens group having positive refracting power, wherein:

at least one lens is formed by molding of a first lens blank that provides a surface including at least an optical function surface after molding, and a second lens blank that provides a surface other than said surface including at least an optical function surface after molding, and comprises a one-piece lens wherein said first lens blank and said second blank are integrated together,

said second lens group or said fourth lens group comprises at least one said one-piece lens, and

at least one positive lens is positioned in said second lens group, and satisfies the following condition:

$$0.1 < HH2/\phi2 < 15 \qquad \dots (3G)$$

where HH2 is a principal point spacing (mm) of the positive lens in the second lens group and $\phi2$ is a refracting power of the positive lens in the second lens group.

Claims 32-36 (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) A zoom optical system comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a first lens group having positive refracting power, a second lens group having negative refracting power, a third lens group having positive refracting power and a fourth lens group having positive refracting power, wherein at least one lens is formed by molding of a first lens blank that provides a surface including at least an optical function surface after molding, and a second lens blank that provides a surface other than said surface including at

least an optical function surface after molding, wherein the first lens blank and the second lens blank are integrated into a one piece lens, and at least one positive lens is positioned in said first lens group and satisfies the following condition:

$$0.1 < HH1/\Phi1 < 20 \quad \dots (2G)$$

where HH1 is a principal point spacing (mm) of the positive lens in the first lens group and $\Phi1$ is a refracting power of the positive lens in the first lens group.

38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously Presented) A zoom optical system comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a first lens group having positive refracting power, a second lens group having negative refracting power, a third lens group having positive refracting power and a fourth lens group having positive refracting power, wherein at least one lens is formed by molding of a first lens blank that provides a surface including at least an optical function surface after molding, and a second lens blank that provides a surface other than said surface including at least an optical function surface after molding, wherein the first lens blank and the second lens blank are integrated into a one-piece lens, and at least one positive lens is positioned in said third lens group and satisfies the following condition:

$$0.1 < HH3/\Phi3 < 8 \quad \dots (4G)$$

where HH3 is a principal point spacing (mm) of the positive lens in the third lens group and $\Phi3$ is a refracting power of the positive lens in the third lens group.

40. (Previously Presented) A zoom optical system comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a first lens group having positive refracting power, a second lens group having negative refracting power, a third lens group having positive refracting power and a fourth lens group having positive refracting power, wherein at least one lens is formed by molding of a first lens blank that provides a surface including at least an optical function surface after molding, and a second lens blank that provides a surface other than said surface including at least an optical function surface after molding, wherein the first lens blank and the second lens blank are integrated into a one-piece lens, and at least one positive lens is positioned in said fourth lens group and satisfies the following condition:

$$0.1 < HH4/\Phi4 < 10 \quad \dots (5G)$$

where HH4 is a principal point spacing (mm) of the positive lens in the fourth lens group and $\Phi4$ is a refracting power of the positive lens in the fourth lens group.